Aim

- The appropriate identification and storing of expressed breast milk (EBM) on the postnatal wards.

Procedure

1. All women who are expressing breast milk for their baby on the postnatal wards should be given a supply of their patient identification labels and yellow EBM stickers to place directly on their bottles, red tubes or purple syringes.

2. Storage:
   
   a) If the EBM is to be given at the next feed it can remain in the mother’s room (Refer parents to Storage of Breast Milk in Pregnancy, Birth and Your Baby (PDF 4.6MB) page 105)

   b) If the baby is in the SCN, the EBM is sent directly to the SCN or stored in the ward fridge and delivered to the SCN within 48 hours of expression. (See CAHS Neonatology guideline: Milk Room Protocol and Neonatal Nutrition Room Protocol Receipt of EBM (MOM & PDHM) into the Nutrition Room)

3. All EBM should be labelled with the mother’s identification sticker and a yellow EBM sticker directly to the container prior to being placed in the fridge for storage if the baby is in SCN or EBM in excess of next feed requirements.

4. The identification sticker must be labelled with the date and time that the milk was expressed and applied directly to the syringe, red tube or bottle. Before storing the EBM in the fridge, midwifery staff should confirm with the mother that the EBM is correctly labelled and matches the woman’s identification name band.
5. On removal from the fridge by midwifery staff, the label shall be checked and confirmed as correct by
   - two midwives and checked against the neonates identification band

6. EBM that is found to be incorrectly labelled or without a label must be discarded immediately and a clinical incident form completed.

7. EBM for a baby in SCN that is identified as having been expressed more than 48 hours previously must be discarded.

### Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

WNHS Clinical guidelines:
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Newborn Feeding: Expressing
- Infection Prevention and Management: Incorrect Breast Milk Administered to a Baby

CAHS Neonatology (NICU): Milk Room Protocol; Breastfeeding

Neonatal Nutrition Room Protocol Receipt of EBM (MOM & PDHM) into the Nutrition Room

### Keywords:
- Expressed breast milk, EBM, stored EBM, labelling EBM, storing EBM, checking EBM

### Document owner:
Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate

### Author / Reviewer:
CMC Obstetric wards

### Date first issued:
March 2014 (B6.4)- v1

### Version:
3

### Reviewed dates:
June 2018 (v2); Oct 2021 (v3)

### Next review date:
Oct 2024

### Endorsed by:
Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate Management Committee

### Date:
06/10/2021

### Supersedes:
This Oct 2021 version supersedes the June 2018 version

### NSQHS Standards (v2) applicable:
- Clinical Governance
- Partnering with Consumers
- Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection
- Medication Safety
- Comprehensive Care
- Communicating for Safety
- Blood Management
- Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2021

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.